

REMARKS

Rejections under 35 USC 112

Examiner has rejected claim 11 as failing to comply with the written
5 description requirement and as being indefinite under 35 USC 112,
first and second paragraphs, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant has
canceled pending claim 11 and Examiner's rejections under 35USC 112
should be withdrawn.

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Rejections under 35 USC 103

None of the prior art documents discloses a plurality of member hooks
each member hook providing a shear resistance in all directions, as
claimed in newly amended claim 7.

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Even though the mushroom shape hook was known [*Manor col. 6, lines
57 to 59: i.e., hook and loop systems, useful in the present invention
include mushroom hooks, 'J' hooks, stalks, and 'T' hook*], it is not
obvious that this particular hook shape is resistant to shear effort in
20 all directions, as opposed to the other two shapes namely T shape and J
shape, and as disclosed in the **background of the present invention on
page 9, lines 5 to 9 and in the reported experimentation page 9 lines
11 to 19** [*The mushroom shapes offer a form of hook which is equally
strong all around, on 360 degrees. They tend to grab more than one
25 fiber at a time. Hence, they are resistant to shear effort applied in any
direction* (note that a shear test is applied between two parallel pads
which remain stuck together when the shear resisting strength is less

than that of a pull by "an average male". It is then very difficult to separate two pads when a mushroom shape hooks are used slidingly and in combination with regular loop) *and stay easy to pull away when an effort is applied in pulling apart* (this last line refers to a tension effort which is happening when two pads are separated by pulling them away from one another, which is not the case in a static application when the pads are pressed together between a chair leg and a floor)].

What makes the mushroom shape particularly useful is that it is used in combination with a felt pad that has a totally reinforced central layer wherein: "...An adhesive is then injected on the superior surface which is now incorporated with a hardened material (latex for example)..." (page 8 of the Specification, lines 16 and 17). The result of that combination is quantified in an attached Declaration defining the load necessary to pull part the mushroom-shapes versus J-shaped hooks, the result being of the order on 100% increase for example, from 28 lbs to 58 lbs, and with increased pressure from 39 lbs to 95 lbs.

Furthermore, in the claims the reinforced material is not meant to utilise "low-melt fibers" on a surface such as reported by Hanes which would merely harden a surface and scratch a floor, but a profound impregnated latex which gives the much increased shear resistance that we have found. In consequence: we have reviewed and narrowed the claims to define the novel claimed structure.

None of the prior-art pads provides these new and unexpected results with hooks positioned in a latex impregnated environment and providing a shear resistance in all directions. Since the novel above physical features of applicant's device provide these new and unexpected results over any reference, applicant submits that these new results

indicate unobviousness and hence patentability. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejections of claim 7 under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.


Dependent claims 8-10 and 12-15 should be found allowable by the Examiner since they depend on newly amended claim 7 as hereinabove described, and the corresponding Examiner's rejections under 35 USC 103(a) be withdrawn.

Claims 12 and 14 have been amended to now depend on amended claim 7 instead of claim 11 which has been canceled.

I hereby declare that no new matter has been added nor any technical information that was not present in my application as originally filed. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the Application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Applicant respectfully requests that timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



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shear resistance of tested pads combined with mushroom shaped hook Velcro pads.

To replicate shear stress, a hydraulic apparatus was used to pull apart the Felt portion from the Velcro portion while measuring the required pull (in lbs) at which the two portions are parting. Four different situations are considered, namely as follows:

TEST 1: Use of a J-shaped hooks in compression

A 1" square Felt pad compressed against a 1" square Velcro pad with J-shaped hooks. A 20 lb load is placed on top of the Felt/Velcro combined pads.

The test showed that the pads came apart with a 28 lb pull.

TEST 2: Use of a mushroom-shaped hooks in compression

A 1" square Felt pad compressed against a 1" square Velcro pad with mushroom-shaped hooks. A 20 lb load is placed on top of the Felt/Velcro combined pads.

The test showed that the pads came apart with a 58 lb pull.

TEST 3: Use of a J-shaped hooks in compression and twisting

A 1" square Felt pad compressed and twisted against a 1" square Velcro pad with J-shaped hooks. The "twisting" motion is added in order to obtain a maximum level of interlocking effect between the two pads. A 20 lb load is placed on top of the Felt/Velcro combined pads.

The test showed that the pads came apart with a 39 lb pull.

TEST 4: Use of a mushroom-shaped hooks in compression and twisting

A 1" square Felt pad compressed and twisted against a 1" square Velcro pad with mushroom-shaped hooks. The "twisting" motion is added in order to obtain a maximum level of interlocking effect between the two pads. A 20 lb load is placed on top of the Felt/Velcro combined pads.

The test showed that the pads came apart with a 95 lb pull.

TECHNICAL DESCRIPTION & MEASUREMENTS

(MADICO's Felt / Mushroom Velcro combination – floor protectors)

Please refer to drawings in patent application publication JAN6, 2005
US2005/0003723A1 FIGs 2A, 2B and 2C and FIGs 3A, 3B and 3C.

FELT PORTION:

Madico's pad (30) consists of soft, small diameter fibers with a reinforced centre (48). The centre portion (48) of the felt pad is reinforced by adding a hardening substance such as latex. The purpose of having a hardened centre portion (48) is to increase the stability of the felt fibers in order that they do not come loose under repeated shear stress and eventually rip apart.

VELCRO PORTION:

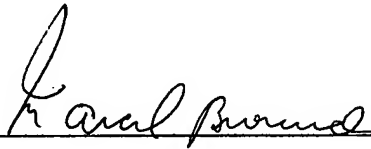
Madico's mushroom type Velcro (32) has specifications that are critical in order to obtain a satisfactory level of resistance to shear stress (as demonstrated in the TEST RESULTS attached). The mushroom type Velcro used distinguishes itself from the 'J' type Velcro in the following specifications:

1) Height of hooks: The mushroom type hooks (40) measure 0.025" in height (compared to 0.055" in height for the 'J' type hooks (58). It is critical to have the shortest hooks possible in order to avoid the 'bending' of the hooks under shear stress, which diminishes considerably the resistance to such stress (as demonstrated in the TEST RESULTS sent separately in a DVD by UPS).

Diameter of hooks: The mushroom type hooks measure 0.0075" in diameter (the same as for 'J' hooks). Having the same diameter hooks with a shorter height, which is the case for the mushroom type hooks increases the resistance to shear stress (as demonstrated in the TEST RESULTS sent separately in a DVD by UPS).

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were mad with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the Application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Signed,



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